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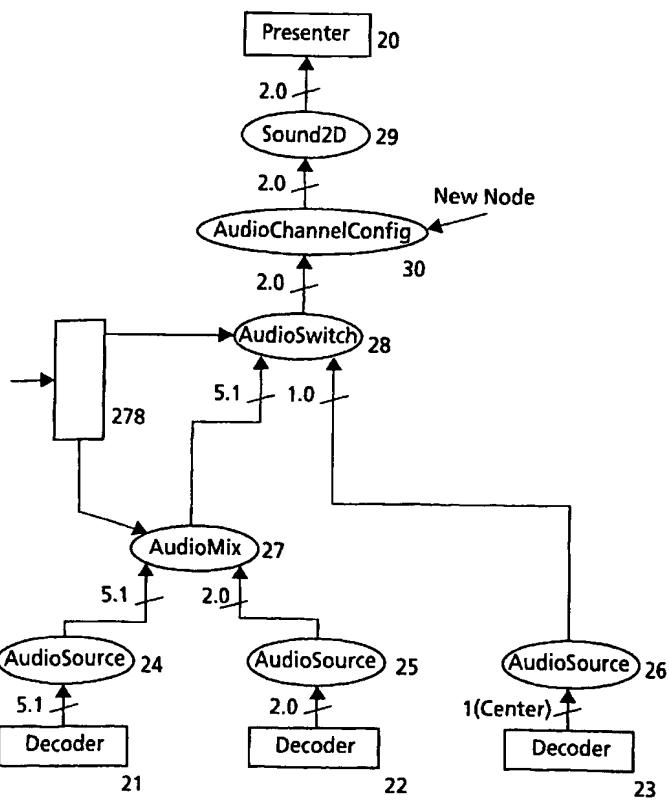
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING AUDIO SIGNALS FROM A BITSTREAM



(57) Abstract: In the MPEG-4 standard ISO/IEC 14496:2001 several audio objects that can be coded with different MPEG-4 format coding types can together form a composed audio system representing a single soundtrack from the several audio substreams. In a receiver the multiple audio objects are decoded separately, but not directly played back to a listener. Instead, transmitted instructions for mixdown are used to prepare a single soundtrack. Mixdown conflicts can occur in case the audio signals to be combined have different channel numbers or configurations. According to the invention an additional audio channel configuration node is used that tags the correct channel configuration information items to the decoded audio data streams to be presented. The invention enables the content provider to set the channel configuration in such a way that the presenter at receiver side can produce a correct channel presentation under all circumstances. An escape code value in the channel configuration data facilitates correct handling of not yet defined channel combinations.

WO 2004/052052 A3



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	WO 98/55998 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV ;PHILIPS SVENSKA AB (SE)) 10 December 1998 (1998-12-10) page 1, lines 1-3	1, 3
A	page 3, line 14 - page 7, line 1	2, 4
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 06, 28 June 1996 (1996-06-28) -& JP 08 031096 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 2 February 1996 (1996-02-02) abstract; figures 1-6	1, 3
A	EP 1 021 044 A (THOMSON BRANDT GMBH) 19 July 2000 (2000-07-19) page 2, line 48 - page 3, line 1 page 3, line 33 - page 5, line 21	2, 4
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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PCT/EP 03/13172**C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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